

January 8, 1956

Dear Joe:

I just wanted to bring your attention to a rather interesting review if you haven't already seen it: Matthews and Smith, Chemotherapy of viruses, Advances in Virus Research, III. This is not exactly a balanced account, but it has many interesting points in it, and is the best summary of their own exciting work on the incorporation of substituted pyrimidines into DNA, a matter which has a great deal of at least theoretical importance, and may be one of the best leads to rational chemotherapy— when we've learned enough about the possible specific differences between the virus and its host. Beyond that, the article does emphasize the very empirical status of current efforts at chemotherapy, ~~which~~ with which I agree whole-heartedly.

I was pleased to get back the transcript of my last review. These are very helpful to me, and I am sure they are more effective for you than the straight records. I hope the rambling doesn't bother you (as much as it does me!) when seen in print. One typo: discarded/distorted one place where it wouldn't make sense.

Have you gotten any further with adenine-red yeast? We're trying to work this out ourselves (as you may know one of my students is working on the cytoplasmic transmission through dikaryons) with rather poor luck: perhaps the strain we got from Ephrussi doesn't quite fill the bill.

Sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg